

## Claims

- [c1] 1. A system, comprising:  
a web server, producing a web page which is available on the Internet; and  
an information translating part which receives e-mail messages and translates said e-mail messages into a form which can interact with said web page being produced by said web server.
- [c2] 2. A system as in claim 1, wherein said e-mail messages include e-mail messages in plain text form.
- [c3] 3. A system as in claim 2, further comprising an e-mail pager, producing said e-mail messages.
- [c4] 4. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a cellular telephone, producing said e-mail messages.
- [c5] 5. A system as in claim 1, wherein said web server is a server that hosts auctions of items for sale and maintains auction bids for items for sale over the Internet.
- [c6] 6. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part accepts e-mail messages which include instructions to change bids on items in auctions for which a user has been previously outbid.
- [c7] 7. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part also sends e-mail messages indicative of information about said auctions.
- [c8] 8. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part also sends e-mail messages that include information about items in said auctions for sale over the Internet, on which items a user has been outbid.
- [c9] 9. A system as in claim 7, wherein said information translating part produces and sends messages which include a session identification indicator that identifies said auction information.
- [c10] 10. A system as in claim 9, wherein said information translating part detects a reply to one of said plain text messages which reply including said session

identification indicator, and takes action on a specified auction based on said session identification indicator.

- [c11] 11. A system as in claim 1, wherein said information translating part also sends e-mail messages indicative of actions occurring on said web page.
- [c12] 12. A system as in claim 11, wherein said e-mail messages include a session ID indicative of said actions.
- [c13] 13. A system as in claim 12, wherein said session ID is included as part of a return address in the e-mail message.
- [c14] 14. A system as in claim 13, wherein the session ID is used to interact with said actions on said Web page.
- [c15] 15. A system as in claim 9, wherein said action includes placing a new bid.
- [c16] 16. A system as in claim 9, wherein said information translating part detects a new bid amount as part of a sent message.
- [c17] 17. A method, comprising:  
producing a web page on a server that is connected to the Internet; and  
receiving a first e-mail message on the server, which e-mail has instructions to interact with said web page.
- [c18] 18. A method as in claim 17, further comprising sending a second e-mail that has instructions on a specific interaction with said web page.
- [c19] 19. A method as in claim 17, wherein said first e-mail includes information that requests specified information from said web page, and further comprising sending a response including said specified information.
- [c20] 20. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that hosts Internet based auctions.
- [c21] 21. A method as in claim 20, wherein said receiving comprises receiving an instruction to bid on an item on an Internet based auction.
- [c22] 22. A method as in claim 21, wherein said item is an item on which a user has

been previously outbid.

- [c23] 23. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is an e-commerce site.
- [c24] 24. A method as in claim 18, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that hosts Internet based auctions.
- [c25] 25. A method as in claim 24, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of an individual auction on said web page.
- [c26] 26. A method as in claim 19, wherein said e-mail message with information includes information about auctions on which a user has been previously outbid.
- [c27] 27. A method as in claim 26, further comprising replying to said e-mail with instructions to increase a bid.
- [c28] 28. A method as in claim 18, wherein said e-mail message includes session ID information that represents said individual auction on which said user has been previously outbid.
- [c29] 29. A method as in claim 28, further comprising replying to said e-mail message with said session ID information, and modifying a bid on said web page responsive to said replying.
- [c30] 30. A method as in claim 29, wherein said session ID is part of a return address for said e-mail.
- [c31] 31. A method as in claim 29, wherein said replying includes specifying an amount of a bid to be placed.
- [c32] 32. A method as in claim 17, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of an individual item on said web page.
- [c33] 33. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains banking information.
- [c34] 34. A method as in claim 33, wherein said e-mail message includes instructions to request a bank balance.

- [c35] 35. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains stock portfolio information.
- [c36] 36. A method as in claim 35, wherein said e-mail message includes instructions to request information on stocks whose prices have changed by a specified amount.
- [c37] 37. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains items for sale.
- [c38] 38. A method, comprising:  
hosting a web page on a server connected to the Internet which displays information; and  
sending an e-mail message that has user specified information instructing interacting with said web page on the Internet.
- [c39] 39. A method as in claim 38, wherein said sending comprises sending an e-mail with information that specifies changes on said Web page.
- [c40] 40. A method as in claim 39, further comprising replying to said e-mail with instructions to carry out some action relative to content on said web page.
- [c41] 41. A method as in claim 38, wherein said web page is one which maintains Internet based auctions, and said sending comprises sending an e-mail about said Internet based auctions.
- [c42] 42. A method as in claim 41, wherein said sending comprises sending an e-mail about Internet based auctions on which the user has been previously outbid.
- [c43] 43. A method as in claim 41, further comprising sending a message to said server instructing said server to increase a bid on one of said auctions.
- [c44] 44. A method as in claim 38, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of the information being sent.
- [c45] 45. A method as in claim 44, further comprising replying to said e-mail including said session ID to produce an instruction regarding said information.

- [c46] 46. A system, comprising:  
a Web server, producing web pages indicative of information that is stored and which can change based on user interaction;  
a communications server, operating to receive e-mails with instructions to change contents of said web server and to produce instructions to said web server indicative of the change of contents.
- [c47] 47. A system as in claim 46, wherein said communications server also sends e-mails based on the content of said web server, said e-mails including session identification information.
- [c48] 48. A system as in claim 47, wherein said session identification uniquely identifies a specific operation to be carried out on said web server, and wherein said e-mails include instructions to change contents include said session identification therein.
- [c49] 49. A system as in claim 48, wherein said web server is a server for carrying out Internet based auctions, and said e-mails include e-mails with instructions to change amounts of bids on said auctions.
- [c50] 50. A system as in claim 49, wherein said communications server sends an e-mail when a user is outbid in one of said Internet based auctions.
- [c51] 51. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server is a web server that maintains banking information, and said e-mail includes instructions to request a bank balance.
- [c52] 52. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server is a web server that maintains stock portfolio information, and said e-mail includes instructions to request information on stocks which have changed.
- [c53] 53. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server maintains items for sale, and said e-mail includes instructions to purchase one of said items for sale.
- [c54] 54. A system, comprising:  
a web server, producing web pages indicative of information, and displaying said web pages over the Internet;

a communications server, communicating with said web server, and sending e-mails indicative of said information based on specified criteria, said e-mails including a session identification information which represents uniquely a specific item on said web server, and receiving e-mails and determining said session identification information in said received e-mails and modifying said information on said web server based on said session identification information in the received e-mails.

- [c55] 55. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains Internet auctions, and said sent e-mails represent individual Internet auctions, with said session identification information also representing an individual Internet auctions.
- [c56] 56. A system as in claim 55, wherein said received e-mails include information for changing bids in said Internet auctions.
- [c57] 57. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains banking information, and said session identification information represents individual accounts.
- [c58] 58. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains banking information, and said session identification information represent individual transactions.
- [c59] 59. A method, comprising:  
maintaining a web site indicative of Internet auctions, in which internet auctions items for sale receive bids from users;  
sending an e-mail to a specific user indicating that the specific user has been outbid on an item, said e-mail including identification information;  
replying to said e-mail with a new bid amount and said identification information; and  
using information in the reply to said e-mail to change a bid amount on said web site for said Internet auctions on said item.
- [c60] 60. A method as in claim 59, wherein said identification information is included as part of a return address for an e-mail.

- [c61] 61. A method as in claim 59, wherein said identification information is included as part of text of said e-mail.
- [c62] 62. A method, comprising:  
maintaining a web site of Internet auctions, which web site allows placing bids on individual items, said bids being placed via an HTML page;  
sending an e-mail to user in non HTML format, indicating that the user has been outbid on one of said items being hosted on said web site;  
receiving a reply to said e-mail, and checking said e-mail to determine said one of said items, and placing a new bid based on said e-mail.
- [c63] 63. A method as in claim 62, wherein said reply includes an amount of a new bid to be placed.
- [c64] 64. A method as in claim 62, wherein said e-mail which is sent includes identification information indicative of said one of said items, and said reply also includes said identification information, said checking comprising checking said identification information.